



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - April 9, 2003**

- ▼ ***In the West***, warm, dry weather favors spring fieldwork across the majority of the region. However, showers are returning to the ***Pacific Northwest***, one of the few areas ***west of the Rockies*** not facing water-supply concerns due to low reservoir levels and prospects for below-normal spring and summer runoff.
- ▼ ***On the Plains***, very cool weather lingers from ***Nebraska southward***, but warmer conditions are promoting winter wheat growth across ***northern parts of the region***. The ***central and northern High Plains*** continue to suffer from long-term drought but have seen recent topsoil moisture improvements. In contrast, topsoil moisture is diminishing on the ***southern Plains***, but subsoil moisture reserves remain mostly adequate.
- ▼ ***In the Corn Belt***, rain showers continue across parts of the ***Ohio Valley***, while cool, dry weather prevails elsewhere in the ***Midwest***. Recent precipitation has hampered ***Midwestern*** fieldwork but improved soil moisture in preparation for spring planting.
- ▼ ***In the South***, cool, dry weather favors a limited return to spring planting from the ***western Gulf Coast region to the Delta***. Meanwhile, heavy rain, lowland flooding, and wet fields are halting fieldwork in the ***Southeast***.

**Outlook:** A complex, slow-moving storm will maintain cold, wet weather across the ***eastern U.S.*** through week's end. Periods of locally heavy rain will persist in the ***Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic States***, while high-elevation snows may blanket the ***southern and central Appalachians***. Farther north, light rain and snow showers are likely in the ***Ohio Valley and Northeast***. Elsewhere, dry, warm weather will spread across the ***Plains and upper Midwest***, while scattered showers will accompany a weak cold front in the ***Pacific Northwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for April 14-18 calls for above-normal precipitation for most of the ***southern two-thirds of the U.S.***, as well as portions of the ***Great Lakes States***. Below-normal precipitation will be confined to ***northern portions of the Rockies and Plains***. Above-normal temperatures are forecast across the ***eastern half of the nation***, while cooler-than-normal weather is expected in the ***West***.

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